

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Official Action dated 30 June 2005 has been carefully considered, along with cited references, applicable sections of the Patent Act, Patent Rules.

Claims 1-2, 7, 9-11 and 18-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Coninck et al. (US Patent 6,328,842).

Claims 3-6, 8 and 12-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Coninck as described above in paragraph 2 in view of Wawrzyniak (US Patent 5,997,688).

Claim 17 is further rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention is significantly different from that of the cited arts as can be seen from their respective structures. Applicant's invention as specified in the amended claims 1-6, and 8-19 is patentably distinguishable over these references when taken either singularly or in combination for the following reasons:

The Examiner cites Coninck et al. as an example of a machine for welding hollow articles, in which plastic shells 21 and 22 are loaded into upper and lower molds and platens 24 and 27. Pistons 52 and 57 and vacuum suckers 51 and 56 hold and position the shells in the platens. Rams press the plastic shells against opposite sides of heating platen 54. The heating platen is then removed via holder 35 and the rams press the shells 21 and 22 to weld them together in the

manner claimed by the applicant.

For claims 3-6, 8 and 12-17, the Examiner further cites Wawrzyniak as an example of a blister-sealing device including shield 70 attached to the heating plate assembly 40 to cover the outer plate 68. This shield 70 may be a thin metallic layer that is heat-resistant.

However, in Coninck et al., as disclosed in col. 9, lines 9-16, and Figures 3E-3F, the shells 21, 22 have only the outer peripheral portions engaged with the hot plate 54, and have a large central portion that has not been heated, such that the suckers 51, 56 may be attached to the shells 21, 22. Normally, the suckers 51, 56 are made of soft rubber materials, and may not be heated, or will be damaged when heated.

By contrast, in Applicant's invention, as amended in the amended claims 1-6, and 8-19, a heating device is provided and includes two heating members (37, 38) for heating the first and the second pad members (90, 91) respectively, such that the pad members (90, 91) will be heated and may not be sucked or drawn with the suckers as disclosed in Coninck et al.

Unlike Coninck et al., in Applicant's invention, the upper mold (13) includes a mold cavity (14) formed therein to receive the second pad member (91) therein, and includes at least one air passage (16) formed therein and communicating with the mold cavity (14) thereof, and coupled to a vacuum device (17), in order to vacuum and to draw and retain the second pad member (91) to the upper mold (13), even when the second pad member (91) is heated to a high temperature.

The cited arts fail to teach a machine for welding hollow articles, in which two heating members (37, 38) are provided for heating the first and the second pad members (90, 91) respectively, and simultaneously, an upper mold (13) including a mold cavity (14) to receive the second pad member (91), and at least one air passage (16) communicating with the mold cavity (14) and coupled to a vacuum device (17), to vacuum and to draw and retain the second pad member (91) to the upper mold (13), even when the second pad member (91) is heated to a high temperature. The applicant's invention is different from that of the cited arts and has improved over the cited arts.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicant respectfully submits that the present invention is patentably distinguishable over the cited arts and that the application is now in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited.

Courtesy and cooperation of Examiner SELLS are appreciated.

respectfully submitted,

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